

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, June 1, 1894, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. June 1st (1894) My dear Alec:

Your letter telling of Mamma's operation came back today, and I read it with a great deal of interest. I would have done all I possibly could to have got here in time to be with Mamma during the ordeal, but since I couldn't I am thankful I didn't. It is very hard for me to witness such things, I had always much rather keep out of the way, unless I can do some good. I went in to the dentist's with Daisy this morning, and it was about as much operation as I want to see. I entertained myself reading a dental periodical. It had a great deal to say about the necessity of disinfecting all the instruments, towels, etc., and was intensely interesting. Only I don't want to go to a dentist again, it gave such thrilling accounts of the danger of even using the same instrument for different parts of the same tooth on account of the danger of carrying diseased matter from a decayed to a healthy part. It enlarged on the ease with which syphilis can be communicated from one patient to another by the use of undisinfected knives. It said that it was no use washing instruments in water and wiping them, they might as well be put directly from one mouth to another, and so on, ad. — what?

Coming home, found Major Powell had made Mamma a long call. She was full of it and so much pleased at his coming while still so very feeble. Mamma has been telling me all he told her of the operation, but I suppose he told you himself.

Papa has come back from New York. He saw Mr. Crouter who 2 went on to Rochester to see Mr. Gillett. He does not think there is any danger of Mr. Gillett's having to resign.

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I want you to let Mr. McCurdy go away for a few days after we come back so that you and I and the children can be all by ourselves in the new home just at first. Can't you let him go? I don't mean for a long time, only a few days, but I do feel I would like the children to remember their first days in the new home as being spent with you and me a little family complete in ourselves. I have told Mr. McCurdy this. Three or four days would do, in fact we couldn't have more as the other children will be coming. Charlie and Grace would like to have Mr. McCurdy meet Aileen and the children in Halifax. Can he do this?

Yours ever, Mabel.